

## Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A quick-acting valve (18) comprising  
a coil (19) supplied by a voltage source (25), ~~characterized in that~~  
~~between the voltage source (25) and the coil (19)~~  
a voltage-dependent resistor (33) is provided between the voltage source (25) and the coil (19), and  
an auxiliary voltage source (35) is connected in parallel to the coil (19), the voltage of said auxiliary voltage source (35) being opposite to that of said voltage source (25),  
wherein the voltage-dependent resistor (33) includes a plurality of electronic switches (37,38,39) connected in series in the form of a cascade, said electronic switches (37,38,39) each bridging a series resistor (41) and being driven into the closing state when an input voltage ( $U_e$ ) applied by said voltage source falls below a given switching voltage ( $U_s$ ).
2. (currently amended) The quick-acting valve according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the auxiliary voltage source (35) comprises at least one Zener diode.
3. (currently amended) The quick-acting valve according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the auxiliary voltage source (35) is connected in series with a rectifier diode (36) and in parallel to the coil (19).
4. (cancelled)
5. (currently amended) The quick-acting valve according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the switching voltage ( $U_s$ ) is determined by a reference voltage path (46).

6. (currently amended) The quick-acting valve according to claim 1 ~~claim 4~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each electronic switch (37,38,39) is switched by an auxiliary transistor (43,44,45).